

Introduction – Pangasius



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Pangasius are farmed in South-East Asia with Vietnam as the main country of production. Pangasius accounts for 47% of finfish production in Vietnam¹. In 2017, between 0.859 – 2.577 billion pangasius were farmed in Vietnam alone which is equivalent to approximately 1.2 million tonnes². Although a large number of countries import pangasius, few countries make up the majority of the market including USA (276 000 tonnes), China (216 000 tonnes), EU (180 000 tonnes)^{3,4}.

Despite declines in consumption in the EU, pangasius are one of the top ten most consumed finfish products in the EU⁵ and approximately 99% are farmed⁵. Pangasius are sentient beings and should be provided with a good quality of life when in a farmed environment.

Compassion in World Farming's pangasius resources outline the issues and make recommendations on improving welfare in the production of pangasius during the grow-out phase until harvest (approximately 1 kg of live weight).



This resource pack contains:

- i. Welfare issues in pangasius – a table outlining how farming practices may affect the physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing and the expression of natural behaviours in pangasius
- ii. Improving the welfare of farmed pangasius at rearing – which explains succinctly the main issues and recommendations Compassion advocates for rearing this species as well as measuring their welfare. The document then details the best ways of measuring animal welfare during the rearing phase.
- iii. Improving the welfare of farmed pangasius – a more detailed document explaining the scientific data with which we based these recommendations upon. Both resources explore the issues based on a “good housing”, “good feeding”, “good health” and “opportunity to express appropriate behaviour” format.
- iv. Improving the welfare of farmed pangasius at slaughter – this document focuses on humane slaughter, from crowding to killing, and includes the main welfare issues and guidelines for minimising stress and pain at the time of slaughter for pangasius. All animals reared for food should be slaughtered humanely. This means that they must be effectively stunned, rendered instantly insensible, and remain unconscious until death supervenes. It also includes welfare indicators to monitor the effectiveness of the slaughter process from harvest through to stunning and killing.

¹ King-Nobles H, Billington T, Kirsch J-J, Dang T. Welfare Scoping Report : Vietnam.; 2020.

<https://www.fishwelfareinitiative.org/vietnam>.

² Moode A, Brooke P. Estimated numbers of individuals in aquaculture production. FishCount.

<http://fishcount.org.uk/studydatascreens2/2017/numbers/of-farmed-fish-BO-2017.php?country=Viet%2BNam%2Fsort2>. Published 2019.

³ VASEP. Vietnam pangasius exports Jan-Dec 2016. http://seafood.vasep.com.vn/51_391_11718/statistics/vietnampangasius-exports-jan-dec-2016.htm. Published 2016. Accessed March 9, 2020.

⁴ Thong NT. International Seafood Trade: the global value chain of pangasius. PrimeFish. 2018.

http://www.primefish.eu/sites/default/files/pf_pangasius_global_value_chains.pdf. Accessed March 9, 2020.

⁵ EUMOFA. The EU Fish Market.; 2018. https://www.eumofa.eu/documents/20124/46866/EN_The+EU+fish+market+2018.pdf. Accessed March 9, 2020.